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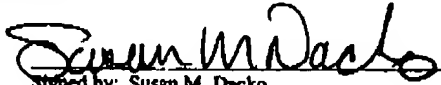
Patent
Case No.: 48317US027

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: JAPUNTICH, DANIEL A.
Application No.: 09/678579 Group Art Unit: 3743
Filed: October 3, 2000 Examiner: Aaron J. Lewis
Title: FIBROUS FILTRATION FACE MASK HAVING A NEW
UNIDIRECTIONAL FLUID VALVE

COMMUNICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION (37 CFR § 1.8(a))</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306.</p> <p>February 25, 2005 Date</p> <p> Signed by: Susan M. Dacko</p>

Dear Sir:

Please be informed that applicants have brought suit against Moldex Metric Inc. and the Louis M. Gerson Company for patent infringement of U.S. Patent 6,843,248 B2 to Japuntich et al. This patent is in the same family as the present application since it too claims priority to the same parent applications. The respiratory mask that is sold by Moldex and that is the subject of the lawsuit includes the valve that is published in U.S. Patent 6,047,698 to Magidson et al. The Gerson Company sells filtering face masks that use a LPD valve that can be viewed on the Gerson website at www.gersonco.com. The lawsuits against both Moldex and Gerson are pending in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota under court docket numbers 03-5292 MJD/JGL and 05-CV-26 (MJD/JGL), respectively. Please let applicant's attorney know if additional information is need with respect to these lawsuits.

Respectfully submitted,

February 25, 2005
Date

By: 
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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833